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**Origin of the Large Mammals of North America.**—M. Grant<sup>1</sup> discusses the old continental connections of North America with the Old World and with South America. Most important is his idea about the old “Beringian connection” between northeastern Asia and northwestern America, which, according to him, was not a continuous one in time, as generally accepted (from the upper Cretaceous to the lower Pleistocene). Grant believes that it existed in the lower Eocene, lower Oligocene, middle Miocene, upper Pliocene and lower Pleistocene, but that it was interrupted chiefly in the middle and upper Eocene, upper Oligocene and lower Miocene. The evidence supporting this assumption is not very convincing, since in part it may be founded only upon a deficiency in our knowledge of the fossil Mammals both of the Old and the New World. Moreover, the geographical distribution of marine animals does not support this view, at least as far as it refers to the older Tertiary. There is hardly any trace of an exchange of faunas between the northern Pacific and the northern Atlantic by way of the Arctic basin during earlier Tertiary times, the similarities in the faunas of these oceans generally being clearly indicative of a very recent connection of them. There is either no resemblance at all, or very close affinity of forms generally amounting to specific identity, the latter cases being found among forms that are apparently circumpolar cold-water types of recent origin.

It shall not be denied that there are a few cases of allied or even identical species in both oceans belonging to more temperate climatic conditions (for instance, resemblances of Japanese and Mediterranean forms) which might possibly indicate a former interruption of the Beringian bridge in the beginning of the later half of the Tertiary, but this point needs further elucidation.

A. E. O.

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## PALÆONTOLOGY.

**Walther's Solnhofen Fauna.**<sup>2</sup>—One of the most philosophical discussions of extinct Faunæ is this essay by Dr. Walther, which forms part of the Hæckel Anniversary Volume. The geological

<sup>1</sup> *8th Ann. Rep. New York Zool. Soc.*, 1904.

<sup>2</sup> Walther, J. *Die Fauna der Solnhofener Plattenkalke, bionomisch betrachtet.* Jena. 1904.